

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 DOE-11 SOE-02
NRC-05 /093 W

-----043445 181259Z /14

O 181239Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9240
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

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USSALTTWO ALSO FOR USMISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: COPN, PEPR, UR, US
SUBJECT: TASS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

1. THE FIRST SOVIET REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S
WINSTON-SALEM SPEECH IS A SHARPLY NEGATIVE PIECE CARRIED
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ON THE TASS WIRE MARCH 17. IT REPRESENTS AN ESCALATION
OF SOVIET CRITICISM OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND OF
THE PRESIDENT. THE MARCH 18 MORNING SOVIET PAPERS
HAVE NO REPORT OF THE SPEECH, BUT WILL LIKELY CARRY
THIS TASS COMMENT OR SIMILAR ONES ON MARCH 19 OR 20.

2. BARELY MENTIONING THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION, ARMS CONTROL AND AVERTING NUCLEAR WAR, THE TASS COMMENT CLAIMS THAT THE SPEECH CAUSES "APPREHENSION" AND "MEANS A SHIFT OF EMPHASIS IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY...TO A COURSE OF THREATS AND BUILD-UP OF TENSION." IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT THE SPEECH IS "TESTIMONY" TO A "DEPARTURE FROM THE SOLUTION" OF THE "REAL AND VITAL PROBLEMS" OF THE ARMS RACE, ELIMINATING TENSION AND DEEPENING DETENTE. TASS GIVES THE USUAL DEFENSE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY -- PARTICULARLY AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST -- AND ACCUSES PRESIDENT CARTER OF "GROSSLY DISTORTING" SOVIET POLICY TO JUSTIFY THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF "A WHOLE NUMBER OF THE LATEST SYSTEMS OF STRATEGIC AND CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS."

3. COMMENT: THIS SHORT BUT VERY QUICK RETORT TO THE SPEECH IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF DEEPENING SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH THEIR INABILITY TO GET THEIR WAY IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS SINCE THE LATTER PART OF LAST YEAR. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE SOVIETS TO EXPRESS THEIR DISSATISFACTION IN PUBLIC HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS AND AS THIS ARTICLE DEMONSTRATES IS MORE AND MORE CALLING INTO QUESTION THE BASIC DIRECTION OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AS WELL AS THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. TOON
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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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